

OBITUARY: DR. EDNA LOUISE SAFFY (1935-2010)

Dr. Edna Louise Saffy, longtime human rights advocate and Jacksonville native, died Sunday, June 20, after a year-long battle with brain cancer.

Dr. Saffy was a graduate of West Riverside Elementary, John Gorrie Middle School, and Robert E. Lee High School before attending University of Florida at Gainesville for her Associate, Bachelor, Master, and Doctor of Philosophy Degrees. She was a Professor of Rhetoric and Public Address both at the University and at Florida State College @ Jacksonville, where she was elected Professor Emeritus following her retirement in December 2007.

Dr. Saffy was a founder of National Organization for Women chapters both in Jacksonville and in Gainesville, as well as founder of the Jacksonville Women's Network. She served on numerous local, state, and national committees, including the John F. Kennedy Center Committee for the Performing Arts during the Clinton Administration. More recently, she was named "A Woman of Courage and Vision" by the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women and was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement EVE Award by the Florida Times-Union.

Dr. Saffy was pre-deceased by her parents, Sadie Daumit Saffy and Habib Solomon Saffy, and is survived by her husband of forty-one years, Dr. Grady Earl Johnson, Jr., and her brother, Ralph Daumit Saffy (Myrtice Rae), nephews Ralph Daumit Saffy, Jr., Richard Daumit Saffy (Laurette), Randal Daumit Saffy (Laura), and niece Rayanne Daumit Saffy Mitchell (Porter Scott), as well as two great-nephews and four great-nieces. Also, she is survived by one aunt, Edna Daumit Altone, one uncle, Edmund Daumit, and many cousins on the Daumit-Obade side of the family, as well as many in-laws, outlaws, three nieces, a nephew, and four great-nieces and two great-nephews on the Johnson side.

Funeral services were Monday, June 28, at Saint John's Cathedral at one o'clock, with family visitation beforehand at twelve-thirty, and with interment following at Oaklawn Cemetery. The family wishes to thank Dr. Saffy's many caring friends and healthcare workers for their kindness and support over the last year of her life. She was truly loved and grateful for you all.